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XLII.—CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS A KNOWLEDGE OF THE FLORA OF THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS. By PROFESSOR E. PERCEVAL WRIGHT, M. D., F. L. S.

[Read December 14, 1868.]

IN this, after giving a slight sketch of the geographical position and geological structure of the Seychelle group of islands, Dr. Wright alluded to the different zones of vegetation to be met with on their mountain sides, and then proceeded to describe in detail *Wormia ferruginea* (Bail.), which was figured; and as new species, *Gardenia annæ* and *Nepenthes Wardii*; both species are figured; and the latter is of very great interest, as the only Pitcher plant belonging to the genus *Nepenthes* as yet met with out of the Asiatic continent and islands.

XLIII.—BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF THE LATE GEORGE V. DU NOYER, M. R. I. A. By M. GAGES.

[Read January 11, 1869.]

DEATH has just taken from amongst us a colleague commendable by his many qualities of mind and heart—an exact geologist, a learned and indefatigable antiquary—George Victor Du Noyer.

He was born in Dublin in 1817. Of a family originally from Provence, where it occupied an honourable position, the union of southern and Irish blood in his veins made of him a type of charming originality.

He was educated at the well-known seminary of the late Mr. Jones, in Great Denmark-street, and at an early age became a pupil of George Petrie, from whom he acquired that exquisite taste for Art and deep-felt love for everything relating to the archæology of Ireland which distinguished him.

When scarcely yet twenty years of age, he owed to the friendship of his master—that large-hearted and generous man—the good fortune of being associated as draughtsman in the labours of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland.

Petrie infused into him a love for the ancient art of Ireland, of its Christian monuments. The several men eminent in various branches of Natural Science then associated in that great national work, the Ordnance Survey, inspired him with a taste for the study of nature. This double association of his youth made Du Noyer an eminently original artist.

Attached afterwards to the Geological branch of the Survey, then directed by a distinguished man, the late General Portlock, who remained ever afterwards his protector and his friend, he designed with great ability the fossils and illustrative views which adorn the learned Report on the Geology of the Counties of Londonderry, Tyrone, and Fermanagh.

The talent which he displayed in those different illustrations, and his varied knowledge of natural history, led to his being permanently employed on the Geological Survey of Ireland when again revived, first under the local direction of Captain (now Sir Henry) James, in the labours of which he took part up to the moment of his death.

Du Noyer was before everything an artist; his knowledge in exact science only served to bring into the foreground, to place in better relief, his artistic qualities. His educational tableaux, even the mere sketches scattered here and there in the explanations of the published sheets of the Geological Survey of Ireland, have that artistic effect which he knew so well how to give to his productions of a higher art. His water-colour drawings of objects of natural history, Irish roses, grains, birds, &c., possess a charming truthfulness; but it is as a geological landscape painter that his productions show so much of poetry and truth—his brilliant colouring brightening, and giving, so to speak, life to his pictures.

Du Noyer had the special peculiarity, that his artistic inspiration kept company, was associated with his daily work—practical geology; and his pictures were, so to speak, the expression of his thoughts—a kind of poetry which belonged to him. The charm and artistic merits of his pencil might have been for him a source of profit; but, alas, questions of money never occupy much the thoughts of men like him. This may no doubt be a great fault; nevertheless, in spite of all our utilitarian tendencies, we love yet to see the flower of the field occupying a modest place in the midst of our corn fields, and contrast, by the vivacity, of its colour with the golden yellow of the well-filled ear.

As an archæologist, the name of Du Noyer will remain honourably associated with the labours of this Academy. His contributions, the numerous sketches which he so spontaneously offered to the Academy, were the fruits of his leisure moments during his geological wanderings. There is not a ruin, not a stone, that he did not faithfully reproduce in his album, fearing to see it disappear, and always with the disinterested intention of increasing our archæological archives. This labour of predilection, the result of that love for everything Irish which he had acquired from his early associations with Petrie, he pursued with zeal up to the moment of his death.

As a private man no one knew better than Du Noyer how to be so simply happy. Seriously occupied with his daily work, that poetry which animated him for the things of nature accompanied him to his home. His life passed between his duties, art, and family. The simplest and truest eulogium we could pass upon him would be to say, that he always met his best friends among his fellow-labourers.

At his death he reckoned almost thirty-three years of active service, part in the Ordnance Survey and part in the Irish branch of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom. Let us hope that his long and faithful services and his merit, so well appreciated by this Academy, may draw the benevolent attention of her Majesty's Government to his wife and children.